

Alpha Class: module one

Topic: THE UNMET HUNGER FOR IDENTITY

Jeremiah 1: 4-10

1. The search for identity

Consciousness of self is the first problem a human being yearns to solve. From infancy to death, the human being is obsessed with the hunger to know the reason for existence. Questions of why am I born in this family? Why is my skin color different from theirs? Why am I of this tribe? Why? Why? Why...? These are questions that no answer can change their facts. However, no matter how, where and when you were born, all is to glorify God and He pre planned it. We can speculate answers, but this effort is not as important as understanding that we are not responsible for anything that happened to us before our birth, but held accountable for anything we do or fail to do on earth to make ourselves and others live a life in the Kingdom of God.

The primitive grasp of identity keeps changing due to shifting emphasis and changing society throughout our years. We change one profession after another, develop one talent after another and improve one skill after another until we reach the assumed point of comfort and identity. After the seemingly established identity, shortly we begin to feel the sense of separateness and a feeling to belong to something larger and more powerful than the weak and lonely self. This is because after the long trail of struggle to get a living, one comes to find out that life is much greater than just a living and obtaining the material possession. Unfortunately, we turn again and again to our self to seek for meaning of life ask the society where we stay which in itself is also struggling to find the meaning of existence. So this results to frustration, self rejection, hatred and immediately increased evil comes to play in some one's life such as too much drinking, drug abuse, theft etc.

The challenge as to why humans take decades to discover the real meaning of life or even never find it at all is because their negative experiences tend to dominate and dictate over their decisions. The self rejections, frustrations, abuses and the like become the driving force behind their life projects. Whenever we are faced with a bad moments we may think that we have no more reason to live, some commit suicide. For this cause, they long to succeed, become popular or gain power so as to "show them" or give up and "just let it be". They forget or even don't want to hear that they have a special purpose from their creator. This kind of serving is full of pride of life, fleshly satisfactions, resentments, self proofs and I don't care attitude **1John 2:16**

2. It all begins with God

You cannot arrive at your life's manual by starting with a focus on yourself. Like a machine, obsession with self in the matters of identifying purpose is a dead end; attention to God leads us out into the open, into a spacious, free life. The Bible says, ***"It is God who directs the lives of his creatures; everyone's life is in his power."*** Job 12:10. Often our external appearances put up a false front concerning what we feel about ourselves. Media feeds us with the belief that if we are attractive, successful or have a certain status then inside we will have it all, but yet still within ourselves we are at a place of loneliness, as we often dislike certain aspects of ourselves and struggle to understand who we are and why we are here on earth.

Fortunately, there is an alternative to speculation about the meaning and purpose of life-its full revelation. God has not left us in the dark to wonder and guess. He has clearly revealed his purposes for our lives through the Bible. It is our Owner's Manual, explaining why we are alive, how life works, what

For inquiries and help, please contact pastors on;

+256752112432/ +256777773033/ +256781336787

to avoid, and what to expect in the future. It explains what no self-help or philosophy book could know. The Bible says, ***“God’s wisdom . . . goes deep into the interior of his purposes. . . . It’s not the latest message, but more like the oldest—what God determined as the way to bring out his best in us.”*** 1 Cor 2:7 God is not just the starting point of your life; he is the source of it.

To discover your purpose in life you must turn to God’s Word, not the world’s wisdom. You must build your life on eternal truths, not psychology, success-motivation, or inspirational or scaring stories. Without God life makes no sense. The purpose of your life fits into a much larger, universal purpose that God has designed for eternity. If there were no God and everything was as a result of chance, there would be no purpose to our lives. It all starts with God.

3. Believing in the purpose designer

These days we are confronted with many situations, persons, objects and deities, that all seem to be promising to give us a fulfilment of the hunger in us for some power beyond our realm and a meaning to life. It’s hard to know what to believe, but could our beliefs impact more than we realize? Peter Marshall former US senate chaplain once said, “Unless we stand for something, we shall fall for anything.” Though it’s important to stand for something, it’s more paramount to be sure of what you stand for.

We all believe in something, a normal human cannot eliminate himself off the conviction and it’s futile to say you have none. It is very important to believe because our belief activates super natural forces that everyone needs. However we must take care of what we believe because the consequences can lead to destruction and eternal death.

Sometimes we just don’t know what we believe or we think we know but then our beliefs are challenged and we’re not sure what’s true anymore. As life goes on what we once believed seems less reliable because it didn’t prove true so we shift our belief. The one challenge is that often we don’t even stop to think about what we believe; we just do our normal work and plan our future. The Bible also emphasizes the fact that it’s vital what one believes. Jesus said, ***“For unless you believe that I am who I say I am, you will die in your sins.”*** (John 8:24, 3:36) the emphasis of the scripture is not on the one trusting, but on the one trusted a reason why even a small faith as a mustard seed can do wonders because it’s not about one trusting but on the one trusted. Believing in Jesus and the word of the Bible give us full satisfaction of answers to all questions of life

People today like to believe whatever they wish to believe in. Believing in a lie does not make it the truth and not believing the truth does not make it a lie. God exists and His word is absolute truth. Many would say as long as I believe in a different way, we are both going the same destination only using different roads. In every sphere of life, what we believe and in whom we trust matters. Believing in any other thing may provide us with temporary answers but questions of eternal judgment, forgiveness of sins, salvation, life on earth and after death...all others can give opinion but the Bible alone has the truth and the only truth.

To travel on a journey, it’s vital to; travel in the right direction, follow a map, seek directions from those who know the way, check and read road signs to reach safely. God has provided us a way to reach him and its only one way not two or more and His word is absolute truth that gives guide in that way. **Jesus says, “I am the way, the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me” John 14:6.**

For inquiries and help, please contact pastors on;

+256752112432/ +256777773033/ +256781336787

WEEKLY TOPICAL SUMMARY

Topic.....

Name..... Date.....

Anything that stands out or draws your attention. (lesson, challenge)(★)	Anything that is hard to understand or have a question about. (?)	Call for action. (→) (identify/ chose area to do, improve or change, would you like to give your life to Jesus?)

Self assessment

According to Genesis 1:26-28, what is the original plan of God for creating man?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Please, do you have any other information in line with the topic? If yes note here.

.....

.....

.....

For inquiries and help, please contact pastors on;

+256752112432/ +256777773033/ +256781336787